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(d) whether the Government have ever approved or condemned the system of nominating persons of a faith different from the faith of those whom they represent;

(e) whether the Government have considered whether any amendment to clause 5 of section 9 of the Local Boards Act is needed to prevent such wrong nominations being made; and

(f) if such an amendment is necessary, when they will make it?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information. Under clause (c) of sub-section (4) of section 9 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, members of union boards are appointed by presidents of taluk boards.

(c) Yes

(d) They have not disapproved. Depressed classes representatives are appointed to represent depressed classes and not the members of any particular religion.

(e) & (f) The Government do not consider that any such amendment is required.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know with reference to the answers to (a) and (b) whether they have attempted to get any information ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I take it that the information has not yet reached ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" We have not yet got the information."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" With reference to clause (d) may I know if they have approved of the nominations made on the lines suggested in the question ? They say they have not disapproved."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Government have neither approved nor disapproved."

\* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The time allotted for the questions and answers now being over, the House will now proceed to the next order of the day."

[Note.—An asterisk (\*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the member.]

### III

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(1)

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to present to the House the report of the Select Committee on the amendments of certain Standing Orders which I proposed some months ago. I shall take it for granted that the report is read by the House. After listening to the conclusions to which the Select Committee has arrived, I think with the permission of the House, it is necessary for me to reiterate my proposals for amending some of the Standing Orders. The first amendment relates to Standing Order No. 19. I propose to add a new clause or Order No. 19-A to this effect : ' 19-A. Every question admitted shall be given an answer with the information sought, unless the answer be against public interests.' Sir, this proposal of mine arises out of my points raised in the debates of the Council so early as

12 noon.

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha.]

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1st April 1925 and in my letter to the late President of the Legislative Council, dated 15th April 1925, for which I received a reply dated 28th July 1925, which is an evasive reply to my question."

\* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"At this stage, the hon. Member should merely present the report of the Select Committee. He need not now take the House through the history of the amendments proposed by him."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I have presented the report, and I am going to move that my amendments may be carried."

\* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is another stage. The hon. Member will kindly see from the agenda that he is now expected only to move that the amendments as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration. That is the motion he has to make."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I am thankful for the relief, Sir, as I am myself not quite well just now. I shall be glad simply to move that the report of the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

\* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"If the hon. Member is not keeping good health, I would advise him to have this postponed to some other date."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I have been trying to find the Standing Order by which I could do it." (Laughter.)

\* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member may withdraw his motion or he may have it postponed to some later day."

\* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I move that this item on the agenda be taken up on Saturday next."

\* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I second it."

\* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The question is that item (1) of Orders of the Day No. 1 be postponed to next Saturday. That includes all the amendments of Mr. Saldanha."

The motion was put and carried.

(2)

\* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The next item on the agenda is a motion by Mr. D. Narayana Raju for certain amendments to Standing Orders. Under Standing Order 76, I have now to read the draft amendments and ask whether the hon. Member has the leave of the Council. As the amendments are lengthy and as they are in the hands of the hon. Members they may be taken as read by me. I now enquire whether any objection is taken to these amendments. (After a pause). Since no objection has been taken I have to intimate that Mr. D. Narayana Raju has the leave of the Council."

"The draft amendments have now to be referred to a Select Committee. Six members of the Select Committee have to be selected by the Council by means of the single transferable vote in accordance with the regulations framed in this behalf. I would suggest that these amendments may be referred to the same Select Committee as may be constituted to consider the draft amendments of the hon. the Advocate-General, moved yesterday. I fix 2 p.m. to-day as the time within which nominations may be handed in to the Secretary. I appoint Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu, being a Chairman of the Council, to be a member of the Committee."